

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,845,248 to Nishida et al. in view of the VoiceXML Programming Tutorial ("Voice eXtensible markup Language", Voice XML Forum © March 2000).

Claims 9 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(b) as being unpatentable over Nishida et al. in view of the VoiceXML Programming Tutorial and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,175,843 to Muramoto et al.

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5).

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Claims 2-8 and 10 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 1 has been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as an embodiment of the invention. Claims 11-24 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1, 9 and 11-24 are currently pending for consideration.

The Drawings Do Not Contain Objectionable Subject Matter

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include reference sign(s) not mentioned in the description. By way of the foregoing Amendment, Applicants have amended the specification to recite the particular reference signs suggested by the Examiner at page 4 of the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

All Claims Are Patentable Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,845,248 to Nishida et al. in view of the VoiceXML Programming Tutorial (“Voice eXtensible markup Language”, Voice XML Forum © March 2000). Claims 2-8 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer rendering the rejection of these claims moot. To the extent that the rejection might still be deemed to apply to claim 1, as newly amended, it is respectfully traversed as follows. Applicants respectfully submit that that neither Nishida et al. nor VoiceXML Programming Tutorial teach producing synthesized sound from the character information based on recognition of a tag in a process where a tag is compared with a predetermined tag in the manner recited in newly amended claim 1. Moreover, there is no motivation or suggestion, other than Applicants’ own disclosure, to use key words to represent character information, perform a keyword comparison and produce synthesized sound from the character information based on recognition of the keyword. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Nishida et al. and VoiceXML Programming Tutorial teaches or suggests all of the features of claim 1, as newly amended.

In Nishida et al., when the keyword matches a predetermined keyword, the keyword itself (or the word(s) including the keyword) is pronounced. In embodiments of the present invention, when the tag matches a predetermined tag, the tag is not pronounced but word(s) associated with the tag is (are) pronounced. Thus, the procedure for preparing the synthesized sound in Nishida et al. is different from embodiments of the presently claimed invention. Further, there are no examples of functions in VoiceXML Programming Tutorial for producing synthesized sound

from the character information **based** (emphasis added) on recognition of the keyword from a comparison process in which two keywords are compared.

The November 15, 2004 Final Office Action asserts at page 3 that any identification involves some search and comparison with a known value. Applicants respectfully submit that this is incorrect. Suppose, for example, that there is a plurality of inputs, and an average of these inputs is taken as a reference value. In this case, the reference value is not a known value. Then, this reference value is compared with another input (i.e., unknown value) to determine coincidence. Thus, two unknown values may be compared to conclude identification.

Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection of newly-amended independent claim 1 under 35 U.S. C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn because all cited references, whether taken singly or combined, do not teach or suggest the above cited features. As pointed out in MPEP § 2143.03 instructs that "[t]o establish prima facie obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. In re Royka, 409 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974)." Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. § 103(b) rejection of newly-amended claim 1 be withdrawn.

Claims 9 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(b) as being unpatentable over Nishida et al. in view of the VoiceXML Programming Tutorial and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,175,843 to Muramoto et al. To the extent that the Examiner may consider this rejection to still apply to dependent claim 9, Applicants respectfully assert that Muramoto et al. does not cure the deficiencies of Nishida et al. in view of the VoiceXML Programming Tutorial as discussed above with regard to claim 1. Moreover, dependent claim 9 is allowable for the same reasons as

discussed above and for the additional features that it recites. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. § 103(b) rejection of claim 9 be withdrawn.

New Claims 11-24

Applicants have added new claims 11-24 to differently define embodiments of the invention. Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 11-24 are allowable over the prior art of record at least for similar reasons as set forth above with regard to newly-amended independent claim 1.

CONCLUSION

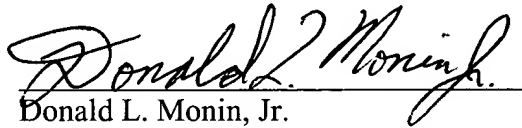
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of the Response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

EXCEPT for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

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